Indians died in UN peacekeeping operations

688. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the third largest contributor of personnel to UN's Peacekeeping Operations – after Pakistan and Bangladesh – but Indian troops reportedly constitute the maximum number of fatalities in UN missions;

(b) if so, the number of Indians who have lost lives in UN Peacekeeping Operations in comparison to other countries, the details thereof, country-wise, personnel-wise and mission wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that only one Indian officer in country's history was reportedly awarded highest wartime medal in 1961 for fighting on foreign soil when Indians suffered most causalities since 1948, till date; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. India is the third largest contributor of troops and police to UN Peacekeeping Operations after Pakistan and Bangladesh. As on 30 September 2008, the number of Indian fatalities in UN Peacekeeping Operations is 119, which is the highest among countries contributing troops and police. Mission-wise break up of Indian fatalities in UN Peacekeeping Operations is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria (1st Gorkha Rifles), who was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) posthumously, died in the service of United Nations in Congo on December 5, 1961.

(d) The 119 Indian troops and police who made the supreme sacrifice for international peace were awarded the Dag Hammarskjold Medals by the United Nations. Their professionalism and dedication have been highly appreciated internationally, while serving in dangerous and sensitive UN Peacekeeping Operations.

Statement

Details of Fatalities from India in UN Peacekeeping Missions (Mission wise)

1	2
MONUC (DR Congo)	9
ONUC (Congo)	39
ONUMOZ (Mozambique)	2
UNAMSIL (Sierra Leone)	5
UNAVEM (Angola)	1
UNEF (Egypt & Israel)	27
UNFICYP (Cyprus)	1
UNIFIL (Lebanon)	2

1	2
UNIKOM (Iraq & Kuwait)	1
UNMEE (Ethiopia-Eritrea)	4
JNMIBH (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	1
UNMIK (Kosovo)	2
UNMIS (Sudan)	2
UNMIL (Liberia)	1
UNOSOM (Somalia)	14
UNTAC (Cambodia)	7
UNTAG (Namibia)	1
TOTAL	119

Visit of Nepalese Prime Minister

689. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral issues on which discussions were held with Nepalese Prime Minister during his visit to New Delhi in the third week of September, 2008;

(b) the salient points on which consensus arrived already indicating those left to be discussed further;

(c) whether Nepalese Prime Minister has been provided with any substantive details of various unlawful activities being carried from the soil of Nepal by anti-India outfits;

(d) if so, the status of commitment he gave, if any, to contain the same; and

(e) the details of roadmap drawn, if any, to conclude review of the existing treaties between two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) During the recent visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India from September 14-18, 2008, the entire gamut of bilateral relations came up for discussions. It was decided to reactivate bilateral mechanisms with Nepal including those in water resources, trade and transit and security issues. Both sides have agreed to enhance cooperation in handling cross-border crime and security concerns.

It was also agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other Agreements, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship.

The text of the Joint Press Statement issued during the visit is given as Statement (Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 679 (a) to (d).

Suicide attack on Indian Embassy in Kabul

690. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: